




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department 

DATE: June 10, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20200610- 002 – Amendment of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan in Support of Project Connect System Plan

On June 10, 2020, Resolution No. 20200610-002 directed the City Manager to amend the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) (Ordinance No. 20190411-033) to add the Project Connect System Plan that includes the Locally Preferred Alternatives for the Orange, Blue, Gold, Green, and MetroRapid Lines, to the ASMP and associated technical elements.

Austin Transportation Department (ATD) staff officially initiated the process to amend the ASMP in May 2021. The initial phase of this process includes an interdepartmental review of the ASMP and the Street Network Table and Map, which is where the technical elements of the Project Connect System Plan are reflected. Throughout 2021 ATD has worked closely with Capital Metro and the Project Connect teams through the NEPA process to develop its engineering plans and ensure they are appropriately represented in the ASMP.

In May 2021, Capital Metro concluded a review of the 15% design plans for both the Orange and Blue Lines and 30% design plans for the Expo and Pleasant Valley MetroRapid Lines. The primary focus of this review phase for Project Connect was on the route alignment, right-of-way (ROW) footprint, and high-level operations. The result of this review phase is the basis of what will be incorporated into the ASMP through the amendment process. The technical elements, including ROW dedication requirements and street design details, are in the process of being recorded in the ASMP Street Network Table to be presented as amendments, comparing what is currently in the ASMP and what is being proposed.

After the ASMP interdepartmental review phase, the proposed changes will be presented to the community for feedback. This ASMP public review phase will be scheduled to follow the Project Connect public engagement schedule, tentatively August/September 2021, so that the proposed changes are not presented to the community outside of the context of the Project Connect process. The ASMP public review phase, which will also include amendments unrelated to Project Connect, will be followed by the official process to amend the ASMP through Boards & Commissions and City Council.

It is important to note that the ASMP, [adopted in April 2019](#), was developed concurrently with the Project Connect Long Term Vision Plan (LTVP). The LTVP was adopted as part of the ASMP, on page 103 of the plan, and the system planning route alignments and ROW requirements were included in the ASMP Street Network Table and Map. The streets identified for dedicated transit pathways, transit operating in exclusive right-of-way, were noted within the Roadway Description and the Required ROW in the table. Since their adoption, these ASMP requirements have been used during the Land Development process to ensure Project Connect is accounted for along the frontage of each site. The system level planning assumptions adopted in the ASMP have not significantly changed throughout the process leading up to the [adoption of the System Plan](#) and the development of the 15% engineering plans.

ATD will continue to coordinate closely with the Project Connect teams to incorporate the most up to date information in the development review process. Nonetheless, amending the ASMP to reflect the most up to date information will ensure the community and development community understand the plans implementing Project Connect.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager